

From: sstark@HI-BEAM.NET
Subject: Kuchar/McDowell screen on Fox News!
Date: August 1, 2009 9:18:26 AM PDT
To: FRAMEWORKS@LISTSERV.AOL.COM
Reply-To: FRAMEWORKS@LISTSERV.AOL.COM

<http://www.foxnews.com/search-results/m/25551964/perverts-put-out.htm>

Fox website:

Title: **'Perverts Put Out'**

Published: **Thu, 30 Jul 2009**

Description: **Stimulus dollars fund erotic film, stage show**

Automatically Generated Transcript (*may not be 100% accurate*)

" We -- pay 787. Billion bucks in taxpayer cash for that massive stimulus package that was supposed to create jobs. Turns out the National Endowment for the Arts is getting in rather big slice of the pie and it is going to things. Like yeah that's okay national governor the arts but wait until you see what the -- are. The theater presenting. Wait for a per person put out. You get the idea just from this title and picture your tax -- dollars hard at work. 50000 dollars of public money going to another theater that promises this movie called thunder crack. It is so offensive. We could barely find anything in the trailer -- the trailer that was suitable to put on TV and we definitely cannot air the audio. Which is not. Anywhere near close to PG thirteen. -- pay for folks. So what else is the NEA doing with your money and how is this creating jobs. Congressman cliff Stearns as a Republican from Florida. I should point out he is a long time critic of the NEA congressman I assume it's because of being good this."

" We're sure they have a long history of offensive in decent art. We were successful in cutting back at their funding. But now under the Democrats majority that funding has increased dramatically it's up -- 119 million. And for them to get -- fifteen million dollar grant through the stimulus package and uses for hundreds and hundreds. Earmarks for the not for profit organization particularly -- San Francisco. Where that offensive and indecent art is being displayed both and public houses and live performances. As well as in movies these are kids -- he's there are movies involving animals and the the reprehensible. In this the national down to Hartford doing this cannot even be emphasized. Strong enough because their history has shown and they have told us they'll stop this thing. This season using taxpayers'. Money today to continue this offensive art. This is that outrageous."

" Our viewers know the congressman does not overstate the case in terms of what the money is going toward that one video that I showed you that we couldn't play the sound on. That 25000 dollars of taxpayer money went to the San Francisco cinema attack. That was. And that's the place where they're putting on this film thunder crack which we can't show you but this is how they describe it. Kinky art -- quarter horror film complete with four men three women and they guerrilla. Ecstasy so great that all haven't held -- comes just one big gold chain were a lot. That's what 25000 dollars -- taxpayer money is paying for that there's another 25 grand go to jets' Curtis slash gravity ink. In San Francisco for the symmetry projects where new couples are mounted on each other various poses and of the first pictures nude children are present -- nude adults. I think a lot of Americans -- have a real problem knowing that their taxpayer dollars that they worked very hard for having funneled to support such causes what can be done. Well."

" A lot of things can be done we can have reduced the NEA funding attempt to do it again. You know all these projects are in -- speaker Pelosi district I think one thing we should also do is. I have letters have written to outpost -- which I intend to do and also try and get members of the Democrats not particularly the **blue dogs** who were involved now of the health care. To consider some of the antithetical projects that are being funded in speaker Pelosi district in trying to curb the NEA from. Continue to award these type of offensive and decent. Funding to these organizations."

" And what happens congressman hit with respective **vice president Joe Biden** he was supposed to be overseeing this whole thing President Obama promised us. That he would oversee in fact here's what the president said about who'll be watching the stimulus dollars."

" That's why -- asked **vice president** Biden to lead a tough unprecedented oversight that. Because nobody messes we don't."

" There you have it. The president **Joe Biden** and **Nancy Pelosi** -- mentioned -- nobody messes with Joe he's gonna watch the stimulus dollars. Congressman if anybody watch any stimulus dollars you -- does anyone care is there any sort of moral component to where they go home where they don't go."

" It appears none and I think **Joe Biden** is not the one to watch it he has a lot of different engagements and he's involved. But foreign policy. This oversight is a joke. The president think **Joe Biden** is gonna watch this oversight. Tremendous joke on the president and I think he'd be. Very foolish to continue to have these kinds of prices continued to be funded. And only antithetical to American values but -- reprehensible. And I think any American they would realize that his tax dollars are going to San Francisco for those projects would be out."

" you know the NEA has come -- defendant's choice. Saying we just gave the

money to individuals and groups that have already received funding in the past -- already passed muster. And they said these didn't help save jobs. Four. Artists in the San Francisco area which is a -- which it does promote the stimulus plan in other words jobs were -- that he be the final word her."

" Well we don't want -- promote jobs and Kiki horror film. Pornographic. Live performances that's not the purpose of the stimulus package we're lacking at long term lasting jobs and not to. Funding. Groups that there are really destroying the culture of this country. Congressman cliff Stearns thanks so much for coming up with your insights on that we appreciate it."

" Thank you all right."

Rick Prelinger
footage@PANIX.COM
This story mentions SF Cinematheque by name.

Gail Silva
See www.mediamatters.org for response.

<http://www.thundercrackthefilm.com/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thundercrack!>

<http://www.frameline.org/festival/film/detail.aspx?id=1781&FID=45>

Fred Camper
I looked at this clip, and it is full of distortions and lies, to the point that it made me sick to think of Americans lapping up this nonsense and then voting accordingly. Falsehoods should be no surprised coming from the lying liars at Fox News, but why post a url linking to Fox News (and thus giving them a few more hits) without comment?

Singling out a couple of San Francisco based erotic art events whose organizations got some NEA money, they try to tar the whole stimulus package with them. Among many other problems, they single out one film, "Thundercrack," that the SF Cinemtheque is showing, as if, somehow, the \$25,000 grant went to that film.

I don't even have cable, and don't watch Fox, but I assume that they didn't blame the millions of dollars in bribes paid to that good conservative Republican, Randy Cunningham, now in prison, on the whole military industrial complex. Yet they somehow try to tar the entire \$50 million extra to the NEA (which, contrary to the statement they make, is a minuscule portion of the stimulus total) with "Thundercrack." And according to Fox, Biden is somehow doing a poor job by not watching every last \$25,000 in stimulus dollars.

This is classic demagoguery, constructed solely to make fake points rather than to present anything resembling the truth. It reminds me of the way Pat Robertson's TV show used to illustrate stories on gays (who he habitually referred to as "sodomites") with the most way-out "performers" at pride parades. It reminds me of the way the right-wing "conservative" and "Christian" American Family Association acted as, in effect, pornographers, when they published a fund-raising brochure with small excerpts of explicit sexual imagery from not-all-that-sexual art works by David Wojnarowicz, who then sued them for copyright violation, and won.

Some of Fox News's distortions and lies have more had deadly consequences. Would Bush II even have been elected in 2000 without them? Would we have started a war by invading Iraq? How do these liars sleep nights?

I think if you're going to post a url so something toxic, and arguably evil, you should at least give a description of it and state your opinion of it too.

Fred Camper
Chicago

Tony Conrad
Hey!

This IS pornography -----Fox style.

We know that the erotic impulse is enhanced by complication: that seductive dress
is more erotic than nudity, that fetish is enhanced eroticism, that romantic distance is an erotic hypostasis.

The Fox audience is carefully distanced from their erotic object of desire/disgust by the mediating devices that the distorted focus of their reporters provides. (Notice, incidentally, the barely concealed sensuality of the reporter and the Florida congressman.)

This is LOVE to HATE; a kind of erotic distance that is not frequently sustained among those of us on Frameworks.

That this "coverage" is dangerous is not enough to say; it is charged by an unstoppable and continually renewed erotic impulse, and can only be thwarted by bringing the deprived to the brink of fulfilled sexual gratification: those deprived who are so rewardingly inhibited by religious abstention, unyielding mates, or fetishistic excess (a la J Edgar Hoover).

How do we know this? From the lessons of the 1960s "Love Generation".

-----t0ny

Camper:

Very good analysis, Tony.

I did make the point that the American Family Association had become pornographers in their extracting of Wojnarowicz's work. Wojnarowicz, whose family history has much to do with American "family values," was never a pornographer.

Perhaps you have in mind that Murdoch and his reporters should themselves perform in a shot-for-shot re-enactment of "Thundercrack"? That would be fine with me, as long as I don't have to look at it...

There was generally a wonderful feeling of freedom in much classic avant-garde film treatment of sexuality, and I have even felt that in films I didn't much like as films. One could make an interesting contrast with the Pat Robertson "montages" I mentioned, which had their own repressed, voyeuristic, leering quality. But also, the way that the Fox clip treats the allegedly salacious material has its own odd fetishism. You can almost feel as if the reporters feel they have found some "money shots" in their presentation of things like "Thundercrack" -- "money shot" in the sense that the journalist has found something she or he doesn't actually care about, but can trade for actual money.

In some accounts of his life, Senator Joseph McCarthy actually didn't give a f*** about communism, but was a drunk who had found what he thought was a career-making routine, and never mind how many lives he ruined.

I remember an interesting distinction Ken Jacobs once made with regard to sexually explicit films. He thought it was fine for a filmmaker to film whatever he or she wanted if following his passion, but that it was wrong to film things he didn't care about that he thought would make him some money. I can't believe that the Fox reporters, or the Republican congressman, are actually upset about "Thundercrack," or are truly disturbed that a few Federal dollars are supporting an institution that showed it, an institution that ALSO got grants under Bush, when it was presumably showing films just as "perverted."

Fred Camper
Chicago

I've written on Thundercrack, so I was delighted to find all this attention directed to it. I've hunted around on the web for more info.

The Fox News team must have taken the clip segments they ran from the trailer which appears on a website that promises to sell a fully restored DVD of the film (in the near future):

<http://www.thundercrackthefilm.com/>

Apparently there is a pirate version which circulates which is significantly shorter than the original, and which shows scratches and burns out the highlights.

There is a pretty complete summary of the film's narrative on Wikipedia

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thundercrack!>

If you look at the Fox clip, it's worth it to also click on their "automatically generated transcript" which includes such howlers as:

That 25000 dollars of taxpayer money went to the San Francisco cinema attack.

Other than the usual demagoguery, what's fascinating (to me) in the Fox and other sources is the constant transmutation of the story and it's wild inaccuracies.

In the "Perverts Put Out" segment that Scott Stark originally flagged, the news reader (one Megyn Kelly, which somehow in this context makes me think she's her own gynecologist) claims that the NEA is "getting a rather big slice of the pie" of the 787,000,000,000 stimulus package. But, the House member being interviewed says that the NEA got \$15,000,000 in the stimulus package. That makes the "big slice" 0.0019%. So much for accuracy. Part of the problem here may be Fox confusing the entire NEA annual budget with the 15 million in the stimulus package, but even the whole NEA budget for FY 2009 is only 155 million, which brings sit up to 0.0196% of the TARP stimulus package.

One downstream recapitulation of the report made the stimulus package 787 trillion, not billion. And lots of the reports mistakenly think that Frameline, the distributor which showed the film at a festival that took place in several venues, is a movie theatre, and they don't seem to know what the SF Cinematheque (sorry, Cinema Attack) is. They also seem to not grasp the fact that the film was made in 1975 and is not being funded by the NEA.

But also delicious in the whole thing is the alarm that Thundercrack sets off because it shows "sex with animals." Of course if they'd seen the film (or even the trailer) they would realize that George Kuchar plays a circus truck driver guy who is in love with a female gorilla he transports, which is very obviously someone in a gorilla costume, not a live animal. Fox News marionette Greta Van Sustern is particularly clueless on this matter.

Probably the biggest lie the Fox team tells is that they couldn't present most of the images or any of the audio on air (actually on cable). The trailer, available on the DVD website, is 3:35 minutes long. I'd say only about 15 seconds of that couldn't be shown, and that's just for bare breast nudity and one brief shot of a bare ass. (You actually can show both on regular broadcast with a digital blur.)

But any extended part of the trailer would make it perfectly obvious that it is a campy parody of film genres. And the audio (George Kuchar's voice over and comic over-inflated sensationalizing of the film) could be presented, but it would reveal that the whole thing is a send-up of extreme proportions. Given that Me-GYN is a lawyer according to the Fox News website, apparently (1) she never saw the trailer even though she discusses it, or (2) she missed the law school classes on broadcast and cable law, or (3) she thinks lying is OK if you can goose the ratings and score points on the Obama administration. She says she can't show most of the trailer on TV, but she can show a fair amount of cleavage in talking about it. (To be fair, not as much as most female detectives on network and cable crime shows such as CSI are expected to display, but rather more

than her "official" Fox News website pix which are coded as lawyer/business/professional/corporate.)

And a note to Fred Camper: I don't think Scott Stark needed to add editorializing to his posting the link to the Fox News clip. Since you don't have cable and don't watch Fox, Fred, you're probably not aware of it (no fault there), but lots of folks are aware of Fox foolishness because it frequently is quoted for sarcastic purposes on *The Daily Show* (on Comedy Central channel) and *Countdown with Keith Obermann* and *The Rachel Maddow Show* (both MSNBC). When I'm browsing TV, I usually take a look at Fox News to see what the latest stupidity is (like Glenn Beck saying Obama is a racist or anything by Bill O'Reilly). But hey, Bill O'Reilly once called me a "pinhead" on his show because I declined to appear on it to talk about teaching a college course on pornography. For anyone with a modicum of intellect and/or middle to left leanings, Fox News is an endless joke.

Maybe all this attention to the film will accelerate production of the new DVD. It's an ill wind....

My article that discusses Thundercrack:

"Taking Out the Trash: Camp and the Politics of Irony," *The Politics and Poetics of Camp*, ed. Moe Meyer (NY and London: Routledge, 1994) 182-201.

CHUCK KLEINHANS